

**Minutes, Thursday, July 14, 2005,
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL
Recorded and submitted by Goldie Caughlan, NOSB Secretary
(SUBMITTED ON AUGUST 10, 2005)**

NOSB EC Members Present:

EC Members Absent:

Other NOSB Members on call: James Riddle, Goldie Caughlan, George Siemon, Andrea Caroe, Dave Carter, Kevin O'Rell, NOP Staff Present: Katherine Benham, Arthur Neal, Keith Jones,

1. Call To Order: Jim Riddle, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:05 EDT.
2. Review and Approve Agenda: GS requested NOP report first, then schedule next EC meeting.
3. Announcements – JR offered: Woodbury, the county that includes Sioux City, Iowa, is offering property tax rebates to convert to organic. A story will be in New Farm. KB said that Feb/Mar meeting minutes summary is done in draft and she'll get it to us within a week or so for review. Also the August meeting agenda will be posted today or tomorrow.
4. Secretary's Report – GS moved, DC seconded, May EC minutes were approved unanimously. June will be placed as a draft in meeting book. KB reported November draft is completed, will send to us. Also in the meeting book will be Nov, Dec, Jan, April, May and June (only Nov and June not EC approved) –
5. Chair Report – Jim – nothing to add.
6. NOP Issues/Update –AN has drafted methionine docket and submitted for legal clearance. Shortened comment period due to Oct 1 date – comment shortened to 15 days to help AMS meet the expiration date for finalization of final rule before Oct 21, 2005. It is posted as a final rule. Have to take into account time to review because not comments all may be favorable. Crops and processing as a joint document is back in the office again, and the livestock doc is nearly final for submission to OGC, which should be within a week, but definitely prior to the meeting.

AC: why was it sent back? AN: the Harvey lawsuit impact, the synthetics that are included. There are only 4 or 5 substances in crops and after we make the necessary adjustments they should move along.

KJ: the methionine document has cleared OGC and within 10 days or so should post. The Guidance document was published as a notice, not proposed rule, so with opportunity for comment. It is the procedures the program was intending to use. Did get comments but not too many, maybe 4 separate comments. We are continuing to look at the comments to see how they affect anything.

JR: good to know it is operational. KJ: we're required by guidance to publish a list of topics we believe in need of guidance, a list of topics with cursory discussion internally. We're starting to assemble topics, and will publish list of guidance needs for next year. We'd set out agenda, public comment, develop, and program starts ticking those off then. JR: that was one of our comments, the role of the board, and hopefully the board will be consulted as you develop the list. Any further for NOP? (none)

GS I'd appreciate us setting next meeting time before I leave this call, and I need to leave it early. (discussion) DC made a motion that August 11 at 11 a.m. EDT should be reserved, and used only if needed. GS Seconded. (discussion) AC: will not be available. Motion passed, all in favor except AC, opposed.

7. Committee Chair Reports – Updates on agenda items for August NOSB meeting

- a. Policy Development – DC: committee meets tomorrow; will get documents to KB later in the day. Jim did great work to prepare the Research Variance document. JR: I solicited draft #2 and the committee will consider it for discussion purposes on the 15th, but it is not intended for a vote at the Aug meeting – discussion and report only. DC: it is a great document, really addresses things, good start on it. Bea has worked on the policy and procedures document, cleaned it up. BJ: Yes, with newer documents inserted, with Jim and Dave coaching me through, and I'll clean it up and send it out. AN: on the BPM revisions, are there any policy changes for NOP/NOSB collaborations? BJ: Just how to respond to Q and A submissions, and the collaboration document is inserted. Also a primer for new board members is created, and we'll review it on our call tomorrow. DC: and then the draft petition for rulemaking submitted in response to the Harvey suit. The committee will look at the petition to divide up and redirect and submit to various committees. KJ: what is the objective of the review Jim? JR: Not substantive, but consider rulemaking. KJ: but what is ultimate goal? Going to endorse it? JR: probably not, but use some of the text for our own deliberations to start from maybe. KJ: there is wide divergence as to "ultimate" solution idea you know. DC: but we may pull out nuggets. KJ: isn't it better to acknowledge it exists, acknowledge it is submitted, and maybe call for more such? DC: that may be one outcome we decide on tomorrow. KJ: I urge you to take that route, to cast net far and wide and every nuance pinned down before start down path that only part of industry may accept. DC: we are starting where we are starting, to look at it. KJ: I hate to see you buttonholed to take position. DC Using legislative analysis this is not to be the "markup vehicle." JR: What else? DC: 606 – is it in? JR: it is one of the issues addressed in the petition, part of work plan for policy committee, no drafting done but discussion items for Aug meeting too.

- b. Crops – NO is absent, RK not on call. AN: they voted on chitosan, did work but don't think have gotten final, voted on sucrose octonate. Recommended to allow both. Bicarb and soy protein isolate I think but I don't know if final vote on the two petitioned substances – will double check – decisions on these two would hinge on board acceptance or rejection of new synthetic v. nonsynthetic position. On compost, don't know, they had some questions with Rigo's last draft – not sure what they are planning to do with the doc he sent out – will check . On Commercial Availability I don't know. JR: Rose did some redrafting, still looking for comments from Richard Segal. AN: I have not forwarded to her. JR: I hope on Seeds and Natural Resources that the drafts could be posted, for action, even if amended before then. Frustrating. Rose sent out Commercial Availability yesterday, said didn't incorporate Richard Siegal's comment. We can post what she had and if need be can amend it. And Natural Resources, they did vote on it. So it is ready. JR: Soy protein isolate and sodium bicarbonate – we will be able to take action? AN Yes.
- c. Livestock – George -- (off call) JR: met Tuesd and approved the pasture recommendation based on comments received – (discussion: did GS submit to AN? AN: will check) GS was making the changes and don't know... JR: on sucrose, recommended approval, completed forms, not sure who was submitting (ask GS). We added few substances to recommend for early sunset review. I submitted questions around oxytocin, and Hue Karreman was developing strychnine on the pro naturals list. (Note: AN reported he has not received anything from GS) There were other discussions on phrase “for emergency use only” but nothing resolved there. And the committee has discussed apiculture standards as rule change – but no new draft, nothing to be posted, the apiculture taskforce report was accepted by the board, need to talk to program, if need more work by us, or move forward, (AC left call). No new draft at this time. AN we did not put as agenda item due to fact that we changed title to presentation of future agenda item. But if there is a statement you like to make we could do so, but we did not think it needed to be on there as an agenda item. JR: okay, if there are alerts you'd like to make, can bring them up at the meeting, but discussion, not action items. Nancy had suggested, and Mike to work with her, but no draft has been circulated, and don't expect it now.
- d. Handling – Kevin – Just prior to my hike, we completed agriculture v non agriculture, committee voted 5 yes, zero no, and Jim had e-mailed questions. I will look at it today and see where it is, and if it constitutes a technical correction as Jim feels it is I will inform committee and put forward as final. Will give you a call Jim. Nothing else to add to this report

- e. Materials – Rose – Rose called in for 5 minutes, could not get land phone connection today, so not on the call. JR: Re: Sunset materials: at meeting in August RK has been collecting list of substances from each committee, working with AN and Pooler, where file is fairly thin, and quite a long list I saw exchanged between RK and BP. Don't know if it can be shortened or if it is the list – I've requested that whatever list is for early review be posted for meeting book. AN: the list that the committee recommended as substances for early review is to be posted in the meeting book, the other won't be. JR Oxytocin? AN I don't know, not if Rose did not make the changes. Rose may need to amend the list. The suggestions came in after the list was made. It could be later updated when Rose returns. Can mark it as a draft. (discussion_) JR: she will make a presentation and the full board does not need to vote on it. Just the items forwarded by the committees. Trying to get as many researched and updated as much as possible. AN: we want to know what they can handle, quantity. If they say 50, or whatever, we can adjust or narrow as needed. JR: so whether total tap review, or what's missing in the file, need to narrow it. AN: right. JR: so, revised petition notification, don't anticipate anything to post there. AN: right, we won't post anything, just her update on future work item. JR: And on to action items materials, national list, continued work on rearranging national list into categories that fit with OFPA, believe materials voted but not sure, and you have it AN? AN: Yes I do. JR: synthetic v non synthetic, this is our most substantive item at the August meeting with far reaching implications, and was submitted after voting on by the joint handling/materials committee.
- f. Accreditation/Compliance – AC: – There were 3 work items that we will be discussing at August meeting: retailer, the documents were submitted; Certification is ready. The response to the program on their response to ANSI, which JR was working and the procedures for peer review, those two items, as we got further into discussion we realized they require more collaboration with program, so they are being submitted as working documents and probably will not get a vote at the meeting, but will work more on the documents before meeting and may have a new draft for each of these docs to give to the NOSB at the August meeting. JR: Actually, I think we did the work, did vote on committee and approved concept. AC:; You don't expect new draft? No. The work has been done. AC, we have these working drafts to leave it open to get with NOP before the board votes. JR: I'd like AN and KB to check in after each report today to make sure they have the final FINAL drafts ready for the meeting book. (discussion).

- g. Fall NOSB meeting dates: Any proposals from Barbara? Not enough information yet from everybody. (discussion) Sent out cal on June 22nd – and got proposed dates for October and November. KB needs dates, to check with hotels. AN: let us get a date soon and resolve it.
9. Next EC meeting: Have reserved August 11 at 11 EDT (just if needed).
10. Other Business: JR will contact crops to double-check all the drafts and Rigo for compost draft and GS for livestock.
11. Adjourn DC moved, GC seconded adjournment, and unanimously approved adjournment, at 12:10 EDT